



Nebraska Judicial Profile 2010

Honorable Elizabeth G. Crnkovich

Judgeship

1995 – present

**Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court, Douglas County
Presiding Judge, Specialized Treatment And Recovery
(STAR) Court**

**Presiding Judge of the Douglas County Juvenile Delinquency
Drug Court**

Experience

1985 – 1995

Omaha, NE

Douglas County Attorney's Office,
Deputy County Attorney, Juvenile Division

Education

Creighton University School of Law, 1983
University of Nebraska-Omaha, 1980

Juris Doctorate
Bachelor of Science

Judicial/Law Related Activities

Professional Affiliations

Nebraska State Bar Association
Omaha Bar Association
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
Nebraska Separate Juvenile Court Judges Association
Robert M. Spire Inns of Court

Nebraska State Bar/Local Attorney Association Committees

Nebraska State Bar Association, Committee, Intermediate
Court of Appeals
Nebraska State Bar Association/County Judges Association,
Special Committee to Review the Juvenile Code

Nebraska Supreme Court Committees

Judicial Qualifications Committee, former member

Community Activities

Midwest Council Boy Scouts of America, Board of Trustees

Midwest Council Boy Scouts of America/Omaha Bar Association/
Diversion Program, Board of Directors (As deputy county attorney,
was instrumental in establishing this diversion program for juvenile
law violators in Douglas County as an alternative to formal court
intervention. This was in collaboration with the Boy Scouts of
America and the Omaha Bar Assoc.)

Downtown Rotary

Omaha Community Partnership

Youth Leadership Omaha

Metropolitan Child Abuse Coalition – Board of Directors
(Recognized by this organization on several occasions for “Efforts on
Behalf of Child in the State of Nebraska”)

Douglas County Inter-Agency Collaboration Team

Foster Care Review Board – Early Review Task Force

Douglas county Juvenile Detention Task Force (Judge Crnkovich
was instrumental in helping to establish alternatives to detention for
delinquent youth in Douglas County, particularly with regard to
concerns of Disproportionate Minority Confinement. The use of
trackers, home electronic monitoring and shelter care were
offshoots of this committee. Serious Habitual Offender Community
Action Program (SHOCAP) Restitution and Treatment Alternative
Committee (R-Safe) – the focus of this committee was to assist
victims of incest and their families by holding offenders accountable
and providing competent offender treatment, child treatment and
family treatment. This process has been formalized in the Lutheran
Family Services R-Safe Program which has served hundreds of
families over the years.)

Nebraska Adolescent Perpetrators Network

Douglas County Youth Center Advisory Board

Douglas County Multi-Disciplinary Treatment Team

Connections – Business Women’s Networking Association

Omaha World Affairs Council

Children's Behavioral Health Legislative Task Force

Judge Crnkovich has participated in the Omaha Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership Program since 1995. From 1995 to 2000, Judge Crnkovich assisted with mock Trial presentations for youth. In other years, court tours were offered.

Regional Sponsor Nebraska Mock Trial Competition – 2007, 2008

Pursuant to state law, LB1184, Judge Crnkovich, then deputy county attorney, initiated a multi-disciplinary treatment team to review cases of child abuse and neglect in Omaha for system failure issues and to provide treatment recommendations on individual cases. This was initiated in 1993. This Team is still in existence and operates through Project Harmony, collaborative effort of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Omaha Police. In 2003, Judge Crnkovich was commended by a legislative task force, as the Douglas County Team was the only team in the state that was operating in the fashion originally intended by the legislation.

Judge Crnkovich established a Juvenile Delinquency Drug Court in 2000. This problem-solving Court seeks to address adolescent chemical dependency and mental health issues through a combination of intensive treatment alternatives and more frequent court monitoring, involving schools, family, probation and treatment in a collaborative effort. In 2004, Judge Crnkovich also established a problem-solving Court to assist chemical dependent parents who have had children removed because of their drug use. Operating along the traditional Drug Court model, the STAR (Specialized Treatment and Recovery) Court provides judicial support and monitoring with treatment.

Judge Crnkovich is collaborating with Omaha Public Schools, Building Bright Futures, and others to address the urgent needs of truant youth in Omaha, and to establish a Court Supervised Truancy Diversion Program to ensure all children are educated and attend school in Omaha.

Honors and Awards

Nebraska State Bar Foundation Fellow: Selection to become a Fellow in the Nebraska State Bar Foundation is based on the integrity and character of the lawyer/judge. The Foundation

recognizes established legal professionals who are dedicated to improving the administration of justice. Fellows are accredited by colleagues as leaders of the legal profession who contribute to the charitable and community education works of Foundation.

Silver Beaver Award, Mid-America Council/Boy Scouts of America

Recognized by the Metropolitan Child Abuse Coalition Board of Directors on several occasions for “Efforts on Behalf of Children in the State of Nebraska

Teaching & Publishing

Omaha Police Division, “Recruit Officer Training – Juvenile Law and Procedure” Seminar for law enforcement conducted as part of the required recruit training. 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, & 1994

Douglas County Sheriff, “Recruit Officer Training – Juvenile Law and Procedure” Seminar for law enforcement conducted as part of their required recruit training. 1988, 1989, 1990, & 1991

Immanuel Medical Center – Department of Education Services, “Child Abuse...What Now?” May 19, 1989. This seminar was presented to medical personnel and focused on identifying abuse and neglect. The course also focused on Child abuse reporting laws and procedures.

Nebraska Association of Legal Assistants, “Philosophy of Juvenile Justice System – Adult v. Juvenile – September 21, 1989

United Catholic Social Services – Counselor Training, “Prosecution of Child Abuse Cases,” 1990. This seminar was presented to various counselors and therapists with a focus on the nature of prosecution in the Separate Juvenile Court and the role of that court in helping families.

Omaha Public Schools, frequently lecture to staff, counselors, teachers, and students regarding child abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency. The content may vary depending on whether I am instructing Student Personnel Assistants on how to refer truancy cases or discussing the nature of abuse and neglect with individual counselors or speaking to groups of students at a particular school.

Midwest Child Care Association, Omaha, NE, “Identifying Child Abuse and Neglect and the Duty to Report,” This was a course provided to day care workers, April 11, 1991.

League of Women Voters, July 1992, "Juvenile Detention,"

Members of the League are vitally interested in the area of juvenile justice and wished to become more informed on the nature of the Court and Juvenile Law.

League of Women Voters, November, 1992, "Juvenile Detention,"

Mini course of Juvenile Law for membership at large.

Children's Hospital, Legal Faculty, "Midwest Conference on Child Abuse," October 17, 1991. Served as a panelist and also participated in a mock trial of child abuse proceedings.

Archdiocese of Omaha, Social Ministry Commission, "The County's Role in Juvenile Detention," March 24, 1993

Nebraska Federation of Democratic Women, "Nebraska Youth – Visions of Today and Tomorrow" Lecture presented on issues surrounding the juvenile justice system and our youth. This was presented on two occasions – February 1990 and April 1993.

The Consortium, Inc – Omaha, Nebraska, "Practical Realities: Abuse Cases and the Legal System," Continuing education for therapist, counselors, chemical dependency counselors, etc. February 1993.

Nebraska Department of Social Services, Frequently conduct training and informal seminars on the juvenile justice system and Juvenile Court procedure.

1998 Nebraska Correctional Association Spring Conference, featured speaker, topic: "Youth Violence."

Foster Parent Regional Conference, Keynote Speaker, January 8, 1997.

Conference on Domestic Violence, April 1996, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Since 1995, Judge Crnkovich has spoken at and provided continuing education at numerous conferences and workshops in the local area on generalized topics such as domestic violence, child abuse/neglect, cultural diversity, youth violence and truancy.